

House Joint Resolution 21  
February 19, 2009  
Presented by Chas Van Genderen  
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 2-19-09  
HB HS 21

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chas Van Genderen, Acting Parks Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

I appear in opposition of House Joint Resolution 21.

State park staff love talking about park issues. Therefore, the parks division welcomes further analysis and support that helps address long term funding and staffing issues. We enjoy working with the auditors and they have come to know our crew pretty well.

Conversely, there are fiscal auditors in the basement of FWP right now and the parks division just got done being audited in December for the job it is doing on weed control in state parks and FASs. That was a favorable audit that said we are complying with the law and achieving a good balance with our other responsibilities.

FWP testified before this committee last week about how state parks have experienced a significant increase in resident visitation since 2003. We also shared survey results that show how visitor experiences have improved.

As for the State Park Futures II report, there were 18 recommendations. Each of those recommendations has been addressed or is being addressed. You do not need an audit to determine that. We would be happy to sit down and discuss it with any legislator, anytime. So the question is: Is it really the best use of public monies to have another audit of the Parks Division?

Thank you for your time.